AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-32. (canceled)

33. (currently amended) The device of Claim ~~32~~ <u>45</u>, wherein the communication portion is at least one contact.

34. (currently amended) The device of Claim ~~32~~ <u>45</u>, wherein the communication portion is a wireless transmitter/receiver.

35. (currently amended) The device of Claim ~~32~~ <u>45</u>, wherein said communication portion includes an antenna embedded in said body.

36. (currently amended) The device of Claim ~~32~~ <u>45</u>, said body comprising:

a card approximating a size and shape of a standard credit card.

37. (currently amended) The device of Claim ~~32~~ <u>45</u>, wherein said card is approximately 85 millimeters (mm) in length, 55mm in width and 1mm thick.

38-44. (canceled)

45. (new) A portable authentication device, comprising:

a body;

a communication portion disposed in said body for receiving externally-supplied power and for communicating data between the authentication device and an authentication device interface;

an internal power mechanism disposed in said body and adapted for storing externally-supplied power;

an identification portion disposed in said body;

a display area disposed in said body and including an active reflective bistable display, wherein data remains displayed on the display when power is not supplied to the display, further wherein the display area comprises a variable display enabled for bistable display of authentication information;

a machine-readable portion comprising at least one of a magnetic strip and an optically-readable portion, coupled to said body, enabled for storage of machine-readable data;

a memory portion, disposed in said body, enabled for storing data, wherein said memory portion stores data for display in said active display area and for user authentication; and

a processor, disposed in said body, wherein said processor provides data to said active display, processes authentication information received from the authentication device interface, and provides a secure data link between the authentication device and the authentication device interface.

46.   (new) An authentication system, comprising:

a portable authentication device having:

a body;

a communication portion disposed in said body for receiving externally-supplied power and for communicating data between the authentication device and an authentication device interface;

an internal power mechanism disposed in said body and adapted for storing externally-supplied power;

an identification portion disposed in said body;

a display area disposed in said body and including an active reflective bistable display, wherein data remains displayed on the display when power is not supplied to the display, further wherein the display area comprises a variable display enabled for bistable display of authentication information;

a machine-readable portion comprising at least one of a magnetic strip and an optically-readable portion, coupled to said body, enabled for storage of machine-readable data;

a memory portion, disposed in said body, enabled for storing data, wherein said memory portion stores data for display in said active display area and for user authentication; and

a processor, disposed in said body, wherein said processor provides data to said active display, processes authentication information received from the authentication device interface, and provides a secure data link between the authentication device and the authentication device interface;

a database server, wherein said authentication device interface couples said portable authentication device and said database server;

an authentication device reader, coupled to said authentication device data interface, for communicating directly with and identifying said portable authentication device;

a public network in communication with each of said portable authentication device, said database server and said authentication device interface;

a venue portion, coupling said database server and said authentication device data interface, wherein said venue portion communicates authentication data associated with a venue to said authentication device interface upon detection of said authentication device;

a patron portion, coupling said database server and said authentication device interface, wherein said patron portion communicates authentication data associated with a venue to said database server in response to a request by a patron; and

a phone ordering interface, coupling said database server to a public network, wherein said phone ordering interface communicates authentication data associated with a venue to said database server in response to a request by a patron received via a public switched telephone network (PSTN).

47.   (new)   A method for authenticating a patron having an authentication device, comprising:

providing an authentication device having an active reflective bistable display, and a communication portion for receiving externally-supplied

power and for communicating data between the authentication device and an authentication device interface;

providing a processor, disposed in said authentication device, for providing data to said active display, processing authentication information received from the authentication device interface, and providing a secure data link between the authentication device and the authentication device interface;

receiving a request from the patron for authorization to enter a venue;

updating a database server with authentication data associated with the venue in response to the request for authorization;

displaying display data corresponding to the authentication data on the authentication device, wherein data remains displayed on the display when power is not supplied to the display;

establishing a communication link between the authentication device and the database server through the communication portion;

comparing identification data of the authentication device and the authentication data, wherein the identification data is identifiable with the patron based on patron data stored in the database server;

granting to the patron access to the venue if the identification data of the authentication device and the authentication data match; and

verifying an association between the patron and the authentication device prior to said granting.